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COUNTRY Polish-Occupied Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Troops and Military Installations in the

Hirschberg-Schmiedeberg Area 25X1C 25X1A

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT prior to February 1950

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REMARKS [REDACTED] 25X1C

An evaluation of this [REDACTED] is requested from Army.

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SOURCE

Hirschberg.

1. A barracks installation in Hirschberg (O 51/G 68), of four four-story barracks buildings, one mess building, and an unidentified number of garages and storehouses, was on the east side of the road to Schmiedeberg (O 51/G 67). The installation, constructed shortly before World War II, had been occupied by Polish troops since fall 1946. A motorized artillery unit was stationed there in late January 1950. In September 1949, three batteries of four guns each were observed moving into the installation. (1) The guns were 100-mm to 120-mm, with barrels 2 to 2½ meters long, and wheels with solid tires. They were towed by prime movers without being disassembled. Not more than 12 guns were observed. (2) The unit was equipped with various types of motor vehicles, all heavily worn. Prime movers and trucks were seen carrying officers as well as enlisted personnel; only a limited number of passenger cars appeared to be available.
2. Another barracks installation in Hirschberg, on the south side of the road to Reibnitz (O 51/G 58) and northeast of the junction of the railroad branch line to Warmbrunn (O 51/G 58), was vacant prior to January 1950. However, in the fall of 1949 there were rumors in Hirschberg that many troops would be quartered at this installation during 1950. (3)
3. Three multi-story large brick buildings and two storage sheds with ramps were east of the Hirschberg freight station, on the railroad line to Breslau. These buildings were completed shortly before the outbreak of World War II.

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They seemed to be empty in December 1949. (4) The former airfield at Hirschberg was east of these buildings, on the north side of the railroad line.

4. No Soviet military personnel or motor vehicles were observed in the streets of Hirschberg prior to January 1950.
5. A UB (Security Police) district office was located at the corner of ul. 1-go Maja, formerly Wilhelmstrasse, and ul. Stalina, formerly Warmbrunnerstrasse. The MO (Militia) district headquarters was located on Warmbrunnerstrasse. The former Adolf Hitler Platz had been renamed into Bierut Square.

Schmiedeberg.

6. Prior to mid-February 1950, a KBW (Internal Security) unit of about 300 men was stationed in Schmiedeberg. The unit provided guard details for the uranium mines and other installations of the uranium mining company. Two platoons of 30 soldiers each were observed moving out for guard duty every noon. Personnel of the unit said that the unit would comprise 800 men by 1950/1951. (5) The unit was billeted in a former manor house on Eglitz brook, about 1 km northwest of the railroad overpass over the road to Dittersbach (O 51/G 77), and commanded by a Polish captain whose residence was located on Auenstrasse. The troops of the unit, all of them apparently handpicked Polish nationals, had been pledged to absolute secrecy. They belonged to the 1926 through 1928 classes and wore greenish-brown uniforms with rectangular blue collar patches. The officers' patches were bordered with a wide silver zigzag braid, and those of the enlisted personnel by a twisted silver cord. The cap bands for both officers and enlisted men were blue. The commanding officer of the unit wore narrow epaulets with parallel stripes of silver braid. The unit was armed with submachine guns with drum magazines and long-barreled Soviet rifles. The troops were also seen carrying machine guns with rather long barrels and drum magazines. In conversations the troops, whose morale appeared high, stressed their devotion to the Communist cause. They were given political indoctrination for about one hour per day. Detachments of the unit were stationed in Dittersbach and Ober-Schmiedeberg.
7. The MO (Militia) office in Schmiedeberg, with a staff of about 25 men, was in a former villa on the east side of the road to Hohenwiese, about 300 meters northeast of the Schmiedeberg railroad station. The UB (Security Police) office, whose staff wore civilian clothes exclusively, was in a former villa on Breitenbachstrasse in Bornhoehe, the southwestern sector of Schmiedeberg.
8. The buildings in Schmiedeberg were guarded by the Industrial Militia of unidentified strength, who were armed with German rifles. The militia personnel wore brown uniforms with field caps without any service color.

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9. An SP (Labor Service) unit consisting of four companies, each of 150 men, was billeted in the former Weinstein furniture factory on the east side of the road to Hohenwiese, and were employed in the construction of settlements in Bornhoehe. Since the spring of 1949, SP personnel have no longer been employed by the uranium mining company, as a result of severe political differences between SP members and other workers. The SP personnel were not only anti-Communist, but also dissatisfied with their pay and food. In the summer of 1949, personnel of the 1929 and 1930 classes served with the SP unit together with some older men who, according to SP members, had been rejected from military service on the grounds of political unreliability and were allegedly serving their term of military service in the SP, receiving only insignificant arms training. SP personnel wore yellowish-green uniforms, field caps with the letters SP in front and a white-red ribbon on the side, and wore triangular white-red collar patches.
10. Since the spring of 1946, no Soviet troops have been observed in Schmiedeberg. Soviet engineers of the uranium mining company were billeted in Hohenwiese, where Soviet jeeps of the company were frequently seen.
11. A large ammunition depot, in which a violent explosion occurred in October or November 1948, was located near Petersdorf (O 51/G 57). Polish residents said that the depot was in operation in February 1950. (6)


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Comments.

- (1) A German horse-drawn artillery battalion consisting of one signal battery and three gun batteries was stationed in this barracks installation, prior to World War II. According to the number of batteries observed, it is estimated that the Polish motorized artillery in this installation comprises one battalion. The garages and ordnance sheds would not be large enough to shelter the equipment of a unit larger than a battalion. Since 1947, a motorized artillery unit has been observed and confirmed in this installation. Prior to 1948, the 39th Light (Mtz ?) Arty Regt of the 10th Inf Div was stationed in Hirschberg. It was transferred to Striegau in late 1948 and has been confirmed there. Hence, it is believed that the artillery unit observed in Hirschberg is an independent motorized artillery battalion, possibly the 28th, which is subordinate to the Hq 4th Military District.
- (2) The caliber and the barrel length are indicative of the German truck-drawn model 18 light field howitzer or of the Soviet 122-mm field howitzer of model 1938. The latter, however, does not have the solid tires of the model 18 light field howitzer.
- (3) Probably the former Waldersee Kaserne, formerly Jaeger Kaserne, which has a billeting capacity of about two companies. The largest barracks installations in Hirschberg are the former Neumann Kaserne, and the Hubertus Kaserne on the road to Grunau. Prior to World War II, they quartered two infantry battalions, the headquarters of an infantry regiment, and regimental headquarters units.
- (4) The installation was the German Army ration supply depot. The buildings are warehouses built for the storage of food supplies.

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- (5) According to press reports, uranium is being mined by the Soviets in the eastern portion of the Riesengebirge, which includes Schmiedeberg.
- (6) An explosive-filling plant (Sprengstoffuellstell) of the German Army was located at Petersdorf.

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